

25 November 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Reference

THROUGH: Chief, Foreign Documents Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Transferral of Consolidated Translation Survey
Operation to Joint JPRS/CFSTI Auspices

1. Since the earliest proposal some years ago to merge the CTS with the TT operation I have been opposed to the idea. Although I have participated in the most recent discussions leading to the current proposal, and although I have contributed to operational planning for this proposed merger, I remain opposed to the proposal.

2. I believe that CIA can gain little or nothing from this venture and lose considerable.

3. What do we have in maintaining the CTS operation?

a. For 17 years, since 1949, the CTS operation increasingly has brought credit to CIA through its service.

b. During this period the CTS operation has saved departments of government millions of dollars in prevention of duplicative translation.

c. The CTS has compiled a cross-indexed file of more than 380,000 available translations, classified and unclassified.

d. The CTS operation has been instrumental in implementing our mission of coordination of foreign-language translation/exploitation efforts in the USIB [and in government].

As an aside, the CTS operation was considered so favorably by the Agency, that in 1961 the Chief, CTS, received an "Award of Merit with Distinction" specifically for her part in developing and supervising the service.

4. What do we face in implementing the proposal?

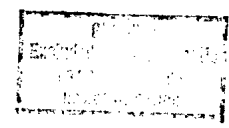
a. In view of a prevailing desire to surface activities that can bring credit to our Agency, I feel that we would be moving at odds to this desire should we turn over this activity for the benefit of the Department of Commerce.

*Recognized.
Its reputation
was not good,
merger would
not be pro-
posed.*

*Will con-
tinue*

Will remain

No change



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b. In view of the continued drive to show economy and savings, I feel we would be cheating ourselves in voluntarily allowing the credit for prevention of duplication to be ascribed to the Department of Commerce.

c. In view of the current trend toward centralized all-source references, I consider we would be acting contrary to this objective in purging our files to augment those of CFSTI.

d. In a large sense I feel that we could be criticized for apparently neglecting our coordination mission in spinning off this responsibility to the JPRS/CFSTI.

5. I do not intend to belabor my argument by citing problems regarding details of implementing the proposed joint operation, i.e., merging and purging; personnel; modus operandi. Suffice to say I think many problems have been over-simplified.

I have grave doubts, however, that CIA will gain in popularity if USIB members and other contributors and users of the "CTS" are informed that in the future they must pay for the service which they have accepted through the years as a service of common concern. USIB representatives did not "buy" this idea in 1963 and in view of eight years of unsatisfactory performance by the CFSTI I cannot conceive that it will be well received now. We also would have, through Domestic Contact Service, the need to inform upwards of 150 cooperating institutions and industries that this service would be discontinued.

6. I realize that we cannot condone the duplicative publication of translation listings. However, the alternative of cooperative effort has previously been suggested and has always appeared obvious.

Under such an agreement, CIA/FDD could maintain the index and reference service and contribute to the publication of "Technical Translations" by CFSTI with appropriate attribution to CIA's cooperation.

This has merit, but will not save FDD slots. In effect, the JPRS will be relieved of this type operation, except for collaboration at JPRS.

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7. After initiating, even naming the CTS, and thereafter participating actively in its management, I may be considered an "obstructionist" for opposing the proposal. Conversely, I believe, that the overturning of a working, efficient operation at the expense of CIA and the USIB is not constructive, progressive, nor in the end economical.


Chief, Support Branch, FDD

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